Rural Common Service Centres

291. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning a major digital expansion by setting up one lakh Rural Common Service Centres which would basically be computer kiosks, at a total cost of Rs. 5,742 crore, through a public-private partnership (PPP) mechanism;

(b) if so, whether these centres are expected to bridge the digital divide existing today between the urban and rural areas;

(c) whether these centres are proposed to substantially extend the reach of digital services and economic opportunities into the rural and remote areas of the country; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision for setting up these centres would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These centres would provide Government and private services at the doorstep of the citizen. As such they are expected to contribute to bridging the digital divide existing between rural and urban areas.

(c) These centers would extend the reach of digital services to rural areas and improve economic opportunities in rural areas.

(d) The Scheme has been approved by the Government in September, 2006.

BSNL tender

292. SHRIPRASANTACHATTERJEE:
SHRITAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tender issued by the BSNL for procurement of equipments for 60 million GSM lines;

(b) whether the project has been delayed;

(c) if so, the time and cost overrun and who is accountable for the delay;

(d) if not, the details of time schedule for finalisation of the tender and commissioning of the capacity addition;

(e) whether Government suspect any of the private telecom players in delaying it;

(f) if so, the corrective measures contemplated; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) BSNL floated a tender on 22.3.06 for procurement of 2G/3G GSM equipment and services for 45.5 million lines capacity as part of its project for expansion of mobile network by 63.5 million lines. Remaining 18 million lines are planned to be ordered on M/s ITI (as PSU reservation quota) at the finalized rates of the tender.

(b) Techno commercial bids of the participants against the tender were opened on 12th June, 2006 and the financial bids of the bidders found techno commercially eligible, were opened on 9th October, 2006. One of the disqualified bidders (on techno-commercial grounds) has approached the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi against the decision of BSNL and the case is presently subjudice.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The equipment supply against the tender is subject to outcome of the court decision. Additional capacity is expected to be available progressively in 9-12 months if the Court's decision will be in favour of BSNL.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Cybercrimes

293. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: